A TRUE

RELATION

Of the late

GREAT FIGHT AT SEA,

BY THE

ENGLISH FLEET,

AND THE

HOLLANDERS:

Between DOVER and CALIS.

On *Wedneſday*, the 19. of this inſtant *May* 1652.

From a very ſure Hand.

Printed at *Leith* by *Evan Tyler*. 1652.

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On Wednesday, the 10. of this inſtant

MAY 1652.

From a Perſon there Preſent.

Printed for Iohn Ley, 1652.

A True Relation of the late Great Fight at Sea, by the English *Fleet, and the* Hollanders, *between* Dover and *Calis.*

On *Wednesday* the 19. of this instant *May*, 1652.

Loving Friend,

THe *Hollanders* have deceived you, and many others, (but themselves most.) In the height of their spirits they came upon our Coasts, with about Fourty Sail: upon *Tuesday* last they sent two of their Frigots into the *Downs*, whilst the others hovered up and down about the South-end of *Goodwin:* They saluted our Vice-Admirall, Major *Bourn.* Our Admirall was then with his Guard about *Dunghilneß*; They were re-saluted. The two Captains came a-board, with (as may be conceived) a lye in their mouths: Their

requeſt was, to come in and water at *Deal*, under pretence they were forced from their Anchors, by foul weather, from their own Road, ſo that they came away unprovided. Major *Bourn* asked them, VVhether they would ſtrike their Flags; for they were then up where they were. They replyed, They had Order to ſtrike to no Nation. Major *Bourn* replyed; Neither had he any Order to give them leave to come in to water. This was the ſalute; and having given them the entertainment with a Glaſs of VVine, the two *Dutch* Captains departed to the Ships; and at their going out of the *Downs*, gave another fair Salute, which was anſwered with the like Civilitie. So, the *Dutch* Fleets anchored between the Light-houſe and *Dover* Caſtle that night; and next day about one or two of the clock in the afternoon, (in the mean time there was Intelligence went between Generall *Blake*, and Major

Major *Bourn*) and it ſeemed by the event, the Reſolution was, That our two Squadrons ſhould meet, ſo ſoon as VVind and Tide would give them leave; for the wind was contrary to Gen. *Blake*, being Northerly, ſo that he was fain to wait the Tide. which was about one or two of the clock: and the wind fitted Major *Bourn*. So ſoon as they weighed their Anchors, and hoiſed ſaile, the *Hollander* did the like, they lying between our two Squadrons, and obſerving their motion: At firſt, we by their ſailing, thought they had made homeward, without any intention to fight, for they were gone near half Seas over, between us and *Calis*, and by the way received an addition of Ships, as we could plainly diſcover: But on a ſudden, a VVarning-Piece being ſhot off, they all tacke about, and made for our Coaſts ſomewhat: but for the moſt part, kept themſelves near the middle of the Channell South-ward, as if

bound

bound that wayes against *Dover*. Our two Squadrons being somwhat near together, they also drew near: And the *Dutch* Admiral, before the rest of his Fleet, with one Friggot, bore up to our Admirall, with the Flag up: Our Admirall shot to have him strike; this he did twice: And then they to their broad sides, Pell Mell, with as much force as any Sea-Fight hath been managed since 88. The Fight began about six in the afternoon, and held till between nine and ten, the *Dutch* Admiral being extreamly beaten, so that he was fain to lye upon the Lees, and came little in Play after the first fierce Encounter. Our men went on with much resolution, and Performance, as you can imagine men to do. The Lord gave them Courage beyond measure: many Voluntiers offered themselves from *Dover*, and *Deal*, and did very good Service; about fifty men came from *Sandwitch*

witch, but a litle too late; I add this to let you see how the ſpirits of the *Engliſh* are raiſed up againſt the *Dutch*, though the number of their Ships were double to ours, we having but twenty four, whereof two of them being fire ſhips that did no ſervice, and theirs about fifty; we ſaw at the back of the ſands, which we ſuppoſe might be about 20. Sail, which ſome of *Dover* ſay, came in before the Fight was ended; however it pleaſed the Lord to honour our Nation with this moſt incomparable Victory as great as any we have had, if conſidered in it ſelf, and in the Conſequences of it: But to be ſhort, we ſunk one of the greateſt Ships, took another of Fourtie Guns: I ſaw the Enſigne of it at the ſtern of a Catch, ſent in by Generall *Blake* to the Major of the T vn, trailing them in the water, under ne *Engliſh* Colours: The reſt of the *Hollanders* Fleet being (well) beaten, ſilently in the

Night

Night, withdrew themſelves (as vvas conceived) to *Callis*, and ſince vve have not ſeen them: Our Fleet (I ſuppoſe) by this time, may be near *Dover*-Road to refreſh themſelves, and to take care for their vvounded men: Yet this is a mercy not to be omitted, that there is not a Captain of the Fleet hurt, nor any Officer of Note ſlain: In our Admirall vvhich ſuſtained the greateſt Brunt in the Fight, there vvere eight ſlain, and tvvelve vvounded; what, or how many in other Ships, I know not. This which I have written, I am confident to be very true: VVhat, I was not a Spectator of, I have from the Major of *Dover*, and other honeſt men of credit, *Vale*.

Dover, *May* 1652. Your very loving Friend

I. H.

FINIS.